THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The information in being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Missile Defence System

336. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia is providing Missile Defence System to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when it is going to be implemented;

(d) what are the main advantages of such system; and

(e) what will be the total cost of this system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no proposal for procurement of a Missile Defence System from Russia.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Correcting deficiencies in operational training of pilots

337. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the rising accidents of fighter aircrafts, Government have considered the question of indentifying the deficiencies in the operational training of the pilots and its overall impact on the capabilities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether, there are any recommendation of the committees set up by Government to go into this aspect;

(d) if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations made by these committees; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There have been no accidents in the IAF which are directly attributed to inadequacy of pilot training.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A high powered committee on Flight Safety was set up in February 1997, under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri known as Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA). It had made 84 recommendations. Most of the recommendations of the Committee were accepted, except a few. The Committee made two major recommendations pertaining to pilot training. These recommendations are as follows:—

(i) Procurement of Advanced Jet Trainers; and

(ii) Procurement of Aircraft Simulators for training of air and ground crew.

(e) Out of 84 recommendations of COFAA, 45 recommendations have been implemented so far. 10 were not accepted for implementation. Remaining recommendations are under various stages of implementation.

Army recruitment policy based on population of the states

†338. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the percentage of recruitment of soldiers in the Army has gone down after the adoption of the recruitment policy based on the population of the State;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government to increase percentage of recruitment of soldiers on the basis of recruitable male population; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.